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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,746	04/01/2004	George D. Blankenship	LEE 200422	5093
27885	7590	03/27/2006		
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP 1100 SUPERIOR AVENUE, SEVENTH FLOOR CLEVELAND, OH 44114			EXAMINER ELVE, MARIA ALEXANDRA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	
DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/813,746

Applicant(s)

BLANKENSHIP, GEORGE D.

Examiner

M. Alexandra Elve

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-133 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 47-133 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23, 39 and 41-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 24-38 and 40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/1/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of group I (claims 1-46) in the reply filed on 1/5/06 is acknowledged.

Claims 47-133 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected groups (II-IX), there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 1/5/06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim states "annular gas passage" and "dielectric barrier discharge plasma", these are indefinite.

Claims 4-6 recites the limitation "passage". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 13-21 & 45 recite the limitation "frequency". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Objections

Claims 22, 40 & 46 are objected to because of the following informalities: the use of the word "class" in the claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 7-23, 39, 41 & 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiou et al. (USPN 6,700,093) in view of Penfold et al. (USPN 4,031,424).

Chiou et al. discloses a dielectric discharge apparatus for the removal of perfluorocompound. The apparatus has a housing, a first and second dielectric tube and at least one electrode disposed in the housing. A cooling gas passages are formed around the first dielectric tube and the housing and another around the second dielectric tube. Some gases, which may be used, are carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and so forth. The dielectric tubes are ceramic (e.g. aluminum oxide).

The use of an applied voltage is disclosed, however, the specific values are not taught. Additionally, Chiou et al. does not teach the use of a wire or gap dimensions.

Penfold et al. discloses a discharge apparatus for cleaning and/or coating a wire. The apparatus creates stable and uniform plasmas. A power supply is used to form plasma. Plasma is formed near a cylindrical cathode sheath and gases used are argon, neon and so forth. These plasmas are used for cleaning.

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The apparatus has a combined high voltage and field power supply. An annular chamber exists within a barrel. Insulators may be constructed of glass, Pyrex, ceramic, quartz and other suitable materials. Plastic tubing may also be used in the apparatus. Gap sizes are: the diameter may be 1/10 to 6 inches (approx. 0.25 to 15 cm). Voltages range from a relatively low voltage to several thousand volts, that is, about 500 to 3000 volts. Exemplary substrates may be wire.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a wire substrate, measure voltage and gap parameters, as taught by Penfold et al. in the Chiou et al. system because these are merely apparatus parameters which should be measured in order to obtain consistent results.

The types of materials chosen are a choice in design and substitution of known equivalent structures may be made. In re Kuhl 188 USPQ (CCPA 1975) and In re Ruff 118 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1958).

It has been held that a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. See In re Casey 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967)

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Claims 4-6 & 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiou et al. and Penfold et al. as stated in the above paragraph and further in view of Stava (USPN 6,365,864).

Chiou et al. and Penfold et al. do not teach frequency values.

Stava discloses a wire cleaning apparatus in which the wire is within a tunnel and tube assembly. A power supply generates a frequency of 1-3 kHz and 100 to 300 kHz. Plasma is created within the tubing assembly and gas is also used.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a frequency of 1-3 or 100-300 kHz as taught by Stava in the Chiou et al. and Penfold et al. system because these are merely apparatus parameters which should be measured in order to obtain consistent results.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-38 & 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not teach a sealed light emitting cylindrical chamber concentric with the path and between the conductive electrode sleeve and the dielectric sleeve.

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Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See US PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Alexandra Elve whose telephone number is 571-272-1173. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick J. Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 17, 2006.


M. Alexandra Elve
Primary Examiner 1725